

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of providing a predetermined sound as an RBT (RingBack Tone) in a communication network, said method comprising:

an HLR (Home Location Register) furnishing a call-originating exchanger with information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for a called terminal through a response message to a location request message received from the call-originating exchanger that sends the location request message to the HLR when a call connection is requested by a caller to the called terminal;

the call-originating exchanger searching for a sound code assigned to the called terminal based on the information included in the response message; and

the call-originating exchanger providing the caller with a pre-stored RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code as an RBT while requesting a trunk connection to a call-terminating exchanger associated with the called terminal based on the response message.

2. (previously presented) A method of providing a predetermined sound as an RBT (RingBack Tone) in a communication network, said method comprising:

an HLR (Home Location Register), in response to a location request message received from a call-originating exchanger when a call connection is requested by a caller to a called terminal, furnishing a call-terminating exchanger associated with the called terminal with information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the called terminal through a routing information request message that is sent by the HLR to the call-terminating exchanger;

the call-terminating exchanger, in response to a trunk connection request from the call-

originating exchanger, searching for a sound code assigned to the called terminal based on the information; and

the call-terminating exchanger providing the caller, via the call-originating exchanger, with a pre-stored RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code as an RBT.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a server separated from the call-originating exchanger and the call-terminating exchanger has a subscriber-code table where subscriber numbers are associated with sound codes individually, and the call-originating exchanger searches for the sound code with the aid of the server.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the call-originating exchanger communicates with the server based on an internet protocol in the code searching operation.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein a server separated from the call-originating exchanger and the call-terminating exchanger has a subscriber-code table where subscriber numbers are associated with sound codes individually, and the call-terminating exchanger searches for the sound code with the aid of the server.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the call-terminating exchanger communicates with the server based on an internet protocol in the code searching operation.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising locally storing a plurality of RBT-replacing sounds in a database of the call-originating exchanger; and

the call-originating exchanger searching among the RBT-replacing sounds stored in the

database for the RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code and providing the found RBT-replacing sound to the caller.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the response message returned from the HLR to the call-originating exchanger includes not only said information but also routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising locally storing a plurality of RBT-replacing sounds in a database of the call-terminating exchanger; and

the call-terminating exchanger searching among the RBT-replacing sounds stored in the database for the RBT-replacing sound associated with the found sound code and providing the found RBT-replacing sound to the caller via the call-originating exchanger.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (**currently amended**) A method of providing a caller with a pre-stored sound chosen by a called subscriber instead of a standard RBT (RingBack Tone), said method comprising:
an HLR (Home Location Register), in response to a location request message received from
a call-originating exchanger associated with the caller, furnishing one of (1) a call-terminating
exchanger associated with the called subscriber and (2) the call-originating exchanger with
information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the called subscriber;
said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers then searching for a sound

code assigned to the called terminal based on the information furnished by the HLR;
said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers subsequently providing the
caller with an RBT-replacing sound, which is pre-stored locally at said one of the call-originating
and call-terminating exchangers and associated with the found sound code, as an RBT; and
the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or
not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called;

The method of claim 12, wherein

 said one of the call-originating and call-terminating exchangers is the call-originating
 exchanger.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein
 said information is returned from the HLR to the call-originating exchanger in a response
 message which also includes routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising
 the call-originating exchanger requesting the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk
 connection;
 wherein the call-originating exchanger searches for the sound code before requesting the
 call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein
 the call-originating exchanger receives the found sound code before requesting the call-
 terminating exchanger to establish a trunk connection.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein
 the call-originating exchanger requests the call-terminating exchanger to establish a trunk
 connection and provides the caller with the RBT-replacing sound at the same time.

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18-20. (canceled)